



February 2006

Call for Papers

The 2007 NICHD-NCES Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort (ECLS-B)

First Release Conference

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) is sponsoring a 2-day ECLS-B First Release Conference, organized jointly by National Institute of Health (NIH) and the United States Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The conference will be held on March 31st-April 1st 2007 at the Natcher Conference Center, Bethesda, MD. The purpose of this conference will be to provide an opportunity for investigators to share research findings using data from the 9-month and 2-year ECLS-B data collections. Papers that focus on child health outcomes of ethnic minorities, low-birth weight and very-low-birth weight births, cognitive development, and twins are particularly encouraged. NIH and NCES staff will jointly serve as moderators to the speakers and paper discussants for the conference.

If you are working with Early Childhood Longitudinal Study-Birth Cohort (ECLS-B) data on these topics, or are interested in doing so, we invite you to submit an abstract by July 15th, 2006. We invite you to share this Call for Papers with your colleagues. NICHD will cover travel and per diem expenses for 8-12 different authors.

Authors should submit an abstract of 1,500 words or less (excluding references, figures, and tables) for use in judging the merits of their proposed paper. The abstract should deal explicitly with as many of the following evaluation factors:

- a. Relevance of the paper's objectives or purposes to conference scope;
- b. Clear description of the perspective(s), theoretical framework, and hypotheses being tested;
- c. Justification for the appropriateness of the ECLS-B data for conducting the study and its unique aspects to the study of health;
- d. Details on the proposed research methods and techniques, including key survey components and variables that will be included;
- e. Description of the types of results and/or conclusions that will be shared at the conference;
- f. Scientific importance of the study for the health community; and
- g. Inclusion of a diverse group of investigators from the field.



Birth Cohort

In organizing the program, preference will be given to analyses that already have produced substantive results or demonstrate strong indications that they will be produced in time for the conference. Please provide information on how far your research has progressed to date in your abstract. Selections will also be guided by considerations of balance in subject matter and institutional affiliation.

Abstracts should be prepared using the attached form. Please send them with your current curriculum vita to the attention of Michael Spittel by email (spittelm@mail.nih.gov) or fax (301 496-0962) by July 15, 2006. We plan to send acceptance and rejection notifications to all applicants by October 31, 2006. It is our intent to manage all communication regarding the conference by email, so including your email address is vitally important.

Information about the ECLS-B study (e.g., electronic versions of the questionnaires, project summary, and recent publications) is available on the NCES website at <http://www.nces.ed.gov/ecls/Birth.asp>. Please contact Michael Spittel with any questions about the NICHD-NCES ECLS-B First Release Conference. We look forward to hearing from you and to learning about your research based on the ECLS-B data.

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